

REMARKS

The above amendments put the claims in condition for allowance.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

The Examiner's objections to the drawings do not require drawing amendments. The reference signs 10 and 110 already exist within the specification, see page 16, paragraph 1 (emphasis added), which reads as follows:

-- The thrust exerted by driving the means for dragging, advancing or pushing the dripping elements 4 even after the contact of the latter with the pipe 5 has occurred, may be easily modulated or adjusted, by providing that the junction between said dragging, advancing or pushing means may be disengaged when the dripping element 4 reaches a certain resistance to advance. In this case, the rollers of the roller way 103 may be provided with a contact surface having a predetermined friction with respect to the bearing surface of the dripping elements 4, so that a friction effect of the dripping elements 4 on the rollers 103 is obtained. Alternatively, as shown in fig. 3, when a *push-bar 10* is used, the latter may have a *pushing head 110* which may be elastically retracted to a predetermined extent on the stem 210 and against the action of elastic means 310, which are appropriately dimensioned as regards their force or elastic constant. --

The numerals 210 and 310 do refer to portions of the push-bar 10. However, the push-bar 10 is part of a single wheel presser means 11'. The push-bar 10 is a combination of the elements 110, 210, and 310. The push-bar 10 is then connected to a presser means, either 11, 11' or 11".

Therefore, the drawing changes requested by the Examiner are not necessary because the specification identifies all reference signs and the drawing correctly identifies all parts.

The changes for the claims suggested by the Examiner have been completed. The extraneous periods in claim 1 have been replaced with semicolons. The wording "advancing, dragging and/or pushing" of each dripping element has been added to (d) of claim 1 to clarify later claims. This wording is found throughout the specification, see pages 14-20 for repeated use, and does not introduce new matter. This amendment satisfies the Examiner's objections in claims 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Claim 3 has been altered to indicate that the orientation of the components is selected such that the transverse force component is varied at will.

In claim 6, "by" has been replaced with "on" to show that an outside force and not the objects themselves exert the pressure.

Claim 8 has been modified to clarify the conditions that are similar before and after the contact of the elements. These conditions are the conditions specified in claim 1. The range of the term "similar" is thus specified to include these conditions.

In claim 9, "the thrust" has been changed to the advancing, dragging and/or pushing force recited in previous claims. Elastic dampers are the devices that reduce the speed of the devices to appropriate levels before contact. Means for progressively and/or suddenly limiting the advancing, dragging and/or pushing force are described on page 9, third paragraph. The specification states that the advancing force is exerted on the dripping elements. This force is limited to a specific predetermined value by a device that is the damper of claim 9. More specifically, the device is an elastic damper that would be the logical choice for this device.

Claim 10 describes the connection process. A friction process, via dragging, advancing and/or pushing, joins the dripping elements. This language is described for example on page 16, first paragraph. The predetermined friction effect is used during movement, i.e. dragging,

advancing and/or pushing, of the dripping elements. The friction and the contact between the dripping elements and pipe connects the two elements together. The advancing, dragging or pushing force limitation is the boundary of operating conditions. This force limitation takes place when the frictional junction force is exceeded during joining of the dripping elements. The process does not function when the force is above this level.

The reference to "compression" has been removed in claim 11. The claim now reads that pressure is not compression, but is instead from an outside source.

The "i.e." in claims 12-14 has been removed.

Claim 16 has been amended to provide an antecedent basis for "the compression area".

The Examiner's first reference to claim 25 references a step (e) that does not exist. The Applicant assumes is a reference to claim 24 and the Examiner's suggestions have been made. Additionally, "conveying" has been amended to "advancing" to satisfy the Examiner's objections to claims 26, 28, 29, 30 and 40.

The language of claim 30 is explained in detail on page 16, first paragraph of the specification. The description states that the dripping element and the pipe come into contact and continue moving forward until the difference in speed creates a certain resistance or pressure that forces the dripping element to disengage from the conveying means. This process is a separate means of disengaging from a separation at a specific point.

Claim 31 has supporting language in the specification. Elastic means reduce the speed of the process elements to appropriate levels before contact. Means for progressively and/or suddenly limiting the advancing, dragging and/or pushing force are described on page 9, third paragraph. More specifically, the device is an elastic means that would be the logical choice for this progressive reduction in speed.

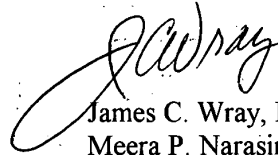
Claim 39 has been amended to indicate that the first contact area is in the same conical length of pipe as indicated in claim 24.

The above amendments to the drawings and claims satisfy all of the Examiner's objections to the claims.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693
Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252
1493 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22101
Tel: (703) 442-4800
Fax: (703) 448-7397

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